

Abstract of the Disclosure

A vacuum filtration apparatus (100) for  
5 detecting microorganisms and particulates in liquid samples. The apparatus includes a base (1), an absorbent pad (91), a filter means (90), a funnel (30), and a lid (60). The funnel contains an integral flexible seal for releasably attaching the funnel to  
10 the base, and an integral flexible seal for releasably sealing the filter means to the base. The base and funnel contain one or more lid clamp tabs. The outer wall of the lid is segmented to make it flexible, this flexibility allows it to be releasably  
15 attached to the lid clamp tabs of either the funnel or the base. The flexible seals and segmented lid allow any funnel to fit to any base, and any lid to fit to any base or to any funnel when all parts are manufactured to normal tolerances. The apparatus  
20 contains a means to keep the filter means wrinkle free in both the dry and wet states.